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# The Countdown Continues!

With only 17 days to go to the [2015 White House Conference on Aging](#) (WHCOA) in Washington DC on July 13, the enthusiasm is growing. This largest-ever WHCOA promises to be an extraordinary event, with folks participating from homes, community centers, and libraries across America, and we're hoping that you're planning to watch the livestream as the President and other senior Administration officials headline this once-a-decade forum.

According to WHCOA Executive Director Nora Super, "We're having national conversation about how to best address the changing aging landscape in the coming decade. We need your voice as part of our dialogue and discussion." Get involved:

- [Watch the event](#)
- [Share your story](#)
- [Interview an older adult](#)
- [Host a watch party](#)
- [Participate in Q&A with the experts](#)

## Register your WHCOA Watch Party

The 2015 White House Conference on Aging will be a national conversation about the issues of

aging and how we can look forward to the next decade. The entire event will be livestreamed on the [White House website](#) – you can watch online and invite your friends and neighbors to watch the Conference with you.

If we haven't heard from you already and you are planning to host a watch party, we'd like to hear from you. You can share the information about your party online [here](#).

We've prepared a [discussion guide](#) to help you host a watch party.

In the days to come, we'll share additional information about the Conference and ways to engage in the conversation with everyone who registers a watch party. **We're excited to have you be a part of this year's 2015 White House Conference on Aging!**

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## Marking World Elder Abuse Day

The President designated Monday, June 15, 2015 as [World Elder Abuse Awareness Day](#), and he called on all Americans to observe the day by “learning the signs of elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation, and by raising awareness about this important public health issue.” [Elder Justice](#) is one of the four main focus areas of the 2015 WHCOA, and Executive Director Nora Super marked the day by speaking at the First World Elder Abuse Awareness Day Global Summit. According to Super, “Every year, millions of older adults around the world experience abuse, neglect, or exploitation. While elder abuse statistics are staggering, behind every number is a mother or father, grandmother or grandfather, husband or wife, neighbor or friend.”

On June 16, WHCOA hosted an [Elder Justice Forum](#). Cecilia Muñoz, Director of the Domestic Policy Council, welcomed advocates, physicians, prosecutors, researchers, government officials and others to the White House to talk about how to best to address and prevent elder abuse and financial exploitation. Participants discussed innovative ideas for strengthening law enforcement and prosecutorial efforts; supporting research and victim services; and preventing and combatting elder financial exploitation.

*Photo caption: Cecilia Muñoz, Assistant to the President and Director of the Domestic Policy Council; Nora Dowd Eisenhower, Assistant Director, Office for Older Americans, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau; Julie McEvoy, Deputy Associate Attorney General, U.S. Department of Justice; Kathy Greenlee, Administrator, Administration for Community Living, and Assistant Secretary for Aging, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services; Nora Super, Executive Director, White House Conference on Aging; and Caroline Bettinger-Lopez, White House Advisor on Violence Against Women at the White House Elder Justice Forum on June 16, 2015.*

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## WHCOA participates in Long-term Services and Supports Webinar

WHCOA Communications Director Michele Patrick participated in a webinar on June 25 sponsored by the Gerontological Society of America and the SCAN Foundation on Long-Term Services and Supports (LTSS). Over 700 registered for the webinar, which focused on challenges and progress made in providing appropriate LTSS for older adults. [LTSS](#) is one of the four focus areas of the 2015 WHCOA.

Despite efforts to stay healthy, we know that many older adults will eventually develop limitations and need support with everyday tasks such as bathing, dressing, preparing a meal, or balancing a checkbook. By 2050, the number of Americans needing long-term services and supports at any one time is expected to more than double from the 12 million currently in need to 27 million.

Photo caption: *By 2050, 27 million Americans will need help with every day activities.*

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## Administration for Community Living Celebrates Landmark Legislation

On June 22, the Administration for Community Living (ACL) celebrated the anniversaries of two crucial milestones on our nation's journey toward community integration for all people. 2015 marks the 25th Anniversary of the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the 16th Anniversary of the Olmstead decision, where the Supreme Court ruled that unjustified segregation of people with disabilities is unlawful discrimination under the ADA.

At a gathering of activists, officials, people with disabilities, and older adults, participants talked about making the vision of an integrated community a reality for all. Kathy Greenlee, Administrator, ACL and Assistant Secretary for Aging, stressed that what benefits people with disabilities, ranging from curb cuts to easily accessible buildings, also benefits older Americans. Greenlee noted that the anniversaries are a "shared victory" for the two groups and that when it comes to older adults and people with disabilities, "their legacy is joined; their future is joined."

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